

REMARKS

Claims 10-13, 15-18, 20-26, 28-35, 37, 39, and 40 are currently pending in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 18, 20-26, 28-33, 39 and 40 were allowed, claims 10-13, 16, 17, 34, 35, 37 and 38 were rejected and claims 14 and 15 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter.

By this response, Applicants have amended the claims to include the subject matter indicated to be allowable in the last Office Action. In particular, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 14.

Thus, all of the pending independent claims 10, 18, and 32 have been allowed or amended herein to incorporate allowable subject matter specified by the Examiner as discussed in more detail below.

Additionally claims 36 and 38 has been canceled in view of the amendments. Claim 15 has been amended in view of the claim cancellation. Claim 37 has been amended to make the claim more consistent and accurate.

Drawing Acceptance

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of the drawing filed November 9, 2005.

Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 10-13, 16, 17, 34, 35, 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rejected by U.S. Patent No. 6,120,502 issued to Michelson ("Michelson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,966,911 to Grosio ("Grosio").

Applicants do not agree that the combination of features recited in the above-noted claims are rendered unpatentable over the applied art of record. However, in order to expedite

prosecution of the application, Applicants have added the subject matter of objected to allowable claim 14 into claim 10. Cancellation of the above-noted claim should not be considered a surrender of the subject matter therein.

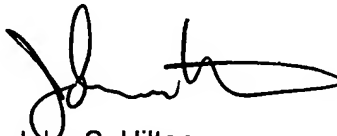
Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims 10-13, 15-18, 20-26, and 28-35, and 37-40 are clearly allowable at least for the reason that the Examiner has indicated that they contain allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejections have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 25, 2006

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